

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DPW-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 240814Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC/POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE: ROKG REACTION TO
YOMIURI ARTICLE

1. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION (MCUI)
ANNOUNCED AUGUST 24 THAT IT HAD ORDERED YOMIURI
TO CLOSE ITS SEOUL OFFICE BECAUSE OF "FALSE AND
GROUNDLESS" REPORTING ABOUT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE
AND THAT YOMIURI REPORTERS WOULD
HAVE TO LEAVE KOREA. REPORTERS MUST LEAVE KOREA
AUGUST 24 AND OFFICE MANAGER BY AUGUST 26.
THIS ACTION FOLLOWED A WARNING BY MCUI MINISTER
YUN CHU-HONG AUGUST 23 THAT YOMIURI OFFICE WOULD
BE ORDERED CLOSED UNLESS YOMIURI RETRACTED A
STORY IN AUGUST 23 EDITION ATTRIBUTING TO HIGH
ROK OFFICIAL ADMISSION THAT KIM'S ABDUCTION WAS
THE WORK OF ROK CIA AGENTS.

2. MORNING RADIO NEWS AND AFTERNOON PAPERS
AUGUST 24 REPORTED THAT YOMIURI MANAGING EDITOR
HAD REJECTED ROKG DEMAND ON GROUNDS THAT
SOURCE WAS A "RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE" KOREAN
OFFICIAL.

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3. COMMENT: KOREAN PRESS HAS NOT CARRIED ANY

PORTION OF YOMIURI STORY. HOWEVER, MEDIA REPORTS
OF MCUI DEMAND AND YOMIURI'S REJECTION STATE
CLEARLY THAT YOMIURI HAD REPORTED ADMISSION BY
A ROK OFFICIAL THAT KIM INCIDENT WAS THE WORK
OF A ROKG AGENCY.

4. IN RETALIATING AGAINST YOMIURI ROKG HAS PUT
ITSELF IN A NO-WIN SITUATION FURTHER FRUSTRATING
ITS EFFORTS TO PUT THE LID ON KIM CASE AS WELL
AS LENDING FURTHER CREDENCE TO VIEW THAT ROKG
WAS ITSELF RESPONSIBLE.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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